

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY NEA/GRK:JGDAY:MP  
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NEA - MR. DAVIES (DRAFT)  
S/S - MR. LUERS

----- 113283

P 042302Z MAR 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 043153

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR, US  
SUBJECT: U.S. EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO SENIOR GREEK  
MILITARY

REF: ATHENS 512 AND 842

FOR AMBASSADOR TASCA

1. IN GENERALLY GLOOMY PICTURE PORTRAYED IN YOUR MESSAGES  
"GREECE AFTER EUPHORIA" AND "THE MILITARY IN GREECE", THERE  
ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF CURRENT SITUATION WHICH TROUBLE US  
PARTICULARLY, I.E.

A. PREVAILING BELIEF THAT UNITED STATES WAS INVOLVED IN  
NOVEMBER 25 COUP AND SUPPORTS PRESENT GOVERNMENT;

B. THE SEEMINGLY TOTAL LACK OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PRESENT  
REGIME AND

C. THE CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF THE GREEK ARMY WITH THIS  
REGIME AND THE CONCOMITANT DISCREDITING OF THE GREEK  
MILITARY IN THE PUBLIC MIND. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY  
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GREEKS BLINDLY CLING TO MYTH THAT "FOREIGN FACTOR" IS  
CONTROLLING FORCE IN GREEK POLITICAL LIFE, BUT FACT THEY  
ACCEPT THIS MYTH, COUPLED WITH STRONG POSSIBILITY GENERAL  
SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE--PERHAPS TO POINT OF VIOLENCE--

RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT OUR FUTURE SECURITY INTERESTS  
IN GREECE. DIFFICULT QUESTION IS OBVIOUSLY HOW WE SHOULD  
SEEK TO PRESERVE THESE MOST ESSENTIAL INTERESTS GIVEN  
COMPLEXITY OF SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN GREEK ARMY.

2. IT IS THE STATED POLICY OF USG TO REFRAIN FROM ANY  
DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF GREECE.  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS POLICY, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT  
AVOID CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH IMPINGE UPON OUR  
BILATERAL SECURITY INTERESTS. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE  
DISCREDITING OF THE GREEK MILITARY IN THE PUBLIC MIND--A  
PROCESS WHICH EMBASSY STATES IS "UNQUESTIONABLY ACCELER-  
ATING--IS A MATTER WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR SECURI-  
TY INTERESTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH YOU  
WHETHER IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO CONVEY THIS POINT AT AN  
EARLY DATE TO KEY SENIOR OFFICERS, EITHER THROUGH YOU, OR  
PERHAPS, RESPECTED AMERICANS, POSSIBLY SENIOR MILITARY  
OFFICERS, ACTIVE OR RETIRED BUT WHO WOULD NOT BE  
IN DIRECT POLICY LINE.

3. APPROACH COULD BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. U.S. INTEREST IN IMPROVING THE STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY  
OF GREEK ARMED FORCES HAS BEEN CONSTANT FOR OVER TWENTY-  
FIVE YEARS AND HAS BEEN REFLECTED NOT ONLY IN MATERIEL  
SUPPORT BY UNITED STATES BUT ALSO IN CLOSE COOPERATION  
BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN TRAINING  
AND PLANNING:

B. IN VIEW OF OUR STRONG BELIEF IN THE NEED FOR A STRONG  
AND EFFECTIVE MILITARY FORCE IN GREECE WE CANNOT HELP BUT  
FEEL CONCERN ABOUT PRESENT TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS IN  
GREECE;

C. SPECIFICALLY, GROWING NUMBER OF GREEKS ARE, RIGHTLY  
OR WRONGLY, PLACING BLAME FOR COUNTRY'S CURRENT PROBLEMS  
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ON GREEK MILITARY;

D. WE ARE, THEREFORE, FEARFUL THAT LONG-STANDING RESPECT  
AND ADMIRATION FOR GREEK ARMED FORCES IS BEING ERODED IN  
GREEK POPULACE;

E. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT FACTIONALISM IN ARMY MAY  
ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS INTEGRITY AS A MILITARY ORGANIZATION;

F. IT IS AS AN ALLY AND CLOSE FRIEND THAT WE EXPRESS  
HOPE THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE RESOLVED AS QUICKLY AS  
POSSIBLE.

4. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON APPROACH ALONG THESE

LINES. BROWN

SECRET

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